

well doing win glory, honor and immortality, for "the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

#### The Bank of Hope

Charles H. Spurgeon once said: "It is well to draw upon the bank of hope, as well as upon the bank of experience. When thy cup is full of sorrow, and thy face is covered with shame, and not a ray of light falls on thy dreary path, remember that there is a history full of grace behind us; and it is all wrapped up in the name of Him who is the hope of every contrite heart. Tho you cannot see the way of deliverance, you can feel that the Lord holds you by the hand."

### Brief Notes

The best witness for Christ is a pure, sweet, consistent Christian life.

We do not honor Christ by folding our hands and gazing into the heavens looking for the appearance of Christ. He honors Christ best who diligently and faithfully does his will here on earth.

The most hopeless warfare is that in which men are engaged to defeat the purposes of God.

No Christian ever gets beyond the need of daily prayer.

Almost without exception, all great London physicians, and all great surgeons, are in favor of total abstinence. Some surgeons will not undertake to perform operations upon persons who have been addicted to drink; they value their reputations too highly to risk failure.

A man once arose in one of Moody's meetings and gave his experience. "I have been for five years on the Mount of Transfiguration." "How many souls did you lead to Christ last year?" was the sharp question that came from Mr. Moody in an instant. "Well, I don't know," was the astonished reply. "Have you saved any?" persisted Mr. Moody. "I don't know that I have," answered the man. "Well, we don't want that kind of mountain-top experience. When a man gets so high that he can't reach down and save poor sinners, there is something wrong."

No one can be said to be really ready to work for Christ until he has received the Holy Ghost. The disciples, tho they had been with Christ for three years, were bidden to tarry until they had received the endowment of the Spirit. If we would work for Christ, live sweetly and be a blessing to others, we have need of the same Spirit.

No amount of philosophy or science could persuade the man whose eyes Jesus opened that he could not see, nor the man at the Gate Beautiful that he could not walk. Infidelity may burn the Bible, take away our churches and schools, but there is one thing they can not take from us, the blessed experience of the Christ of God in the human heart.

A rumrunner in New York city who was the owner and proprietor of a magnificent building, gives the following reasons for quitting the nefarious business: "I have sold liquor for eleven years—long enough for me to see the beginning and the end of its evil effects. I have seen a man jauntily dash off his first glass of liquor in my place, and afterwards fill the grave of a suicide and a drunkard. I have seen man after man, wealthy and educated, come into my saloon to drink and carouse, who have not now the wherewith to buy a dinner and who are miserable, drunken loafers and beggars. I can recall no less than twenty customers, worth from \$100,000 to \$500,000, who are at present without money, home,

friends, credit or employment—in short, bums. After seeing all this, can you wonder that I got out of the polluting traffic?"

The recent disastrous fire which destroyed the Hoboken pier in New York was horrible enough in the loss of life and property, but along with this there are reports of the most revolting barbarity on the part of the tug-boat captains who were near by. Many of these the reports say, not only refused to rescue the burning or drowning persons who were not prepared to pay them for so doing, but in some cases actually murdered such with their boat-hooks. Words fail one to express the tingling of the blood and the infinite contempt for the worse than beasts who could act thus. The authorities have offered large rewards for the direct evidence against such and it is to be hoped that not one may escape.

The usual list of casualties is reported as the result of Fourth of July celebrations. These should include not only the accidents from powder and runaways etc., but also the waste of money spent for smoke and petty indulgences and vicious dissipation. Most of all the day leaves evil results in the drunken debauchery which always accompanies it. Would the founders of our country wish to have it celebrated in this way? How many of those who share the excitement of the day can give reasons for their celebration? How many are inspired to holier love of country by it? When a thousand good causes are suffering for want of money ought not our patriotism expend itself in helping them rather than in senseless noise. Not that noise should be entirely done away. It helps to call attention to the day, and inspires some with a crude loyalty who are capable of nothing better. But there is room for much improvement in our methods of celebration.

The Rock Island R. R. following the example of the Burlington Route, has put the ban upon the cigarette as all roads have already done with liquor. The reason given is that cigarette and excessive tobacco users are half-asleep and unreliable in their work. So much is at stake in the way of life and property that the R. R. managers cannot afford to trust their interests in the hands of men whose nerves are ruined and brains clouded by poisons. In many cases the applicants for position are not even asked the question as to their use of the stuff, the yellow color around the finger nails being sufficient evidence. The employees of these companies are joining anti-cigarette leagues by the score. The policy if successful, will be adopted by other companies and promises soon to become general. It will succeed, because it will bring blessings to three parties. 1. The employees themselves by abstinence from a filthy, expensive habit will be better men and happier in every way. 2. The long-suffering public will have greater confidence when they travel that their lives will not be imperiled by some sleepy, good-for-nothing employee. 3. The companies which adopt this policy will find their work better done by better men. Less property will be destroyed thru wrecks, and an appreciative people will choose to ride behind clean and clear engineers. But how about government officials? Is it less important to have clean and clear headed men in our legislative halls and public offices than in rail road positions? How long will we tolerate the tobacco steeped politician to rule over us? The cigarette habit is but the child of the tobacco habit as the gambling den and brothel are the child of the saloon. Away with the whole business in the name of the Kingdom of God.

### Information Bureau

1. Will members of all denominations be saved? See Rev. 22:18, 19.

The gospel writers did not anticipate the denominational organizations as they exist today. Possibly there would be no specific utterance on this

point if they had. Salvation is an individual matter and its certainty can only be known from the way in which one measures up to the conditions. It is not something passed around like Christmas pop-corn to all who will take it. The old idiom, to "get religion" has been very misleading. Salvation is not a metaphysical something forced upon us externally, but is a life resulting from loving touch with God (John 17:3; 1 John 4:7) and manifested in the natural fruit of such a life. (Jas. 1:27; 1 John 3:14.) In the very nature of the case it must be of different degrees according to one's spiritual growth. (Gal. 6:8; Eph. 4:13-16; Rev. 22:12. Spiritual growth in turn is dependent upon obedience to God's will and the means of grace. (John 15; 1 Pet. 1:5-10; Mk. 14:38, etc.)

If members of any denomination wilfully disobey God's will they must reap the reaction in character which shall judge them in the day when every man shall receive "according to his works." We must not harshly conclude that difference in observance of the forms of worship will be the basis of judgment. If it were but one denomination could be represented in heaven. The spirit of willingness to do God's will is the essential thing. It is not lack of this spirit so much as lack of sameness in disposition and teaching that divides denominations. The spirit of obedience will seek to obey the commandments concerning the ordinances as well as those about stealing and killing, but the day is past for any one to claim a monopoly of inspired interpretation of these commands. The verses to which you refer apply only to the Book of Revelation and must be interpreted in harmony with the symbolical nature of the entire book. They have no reference whatever to the omissions or additions in the creeds or practices of the churches today or to their resulting chances for salvation.

2. Is there any hope for the heathen who die without the gospel?

This is the ever recurring hard question of the ages. Some say yes and some say no. What saith the scripture? The answer to your other question (see above) discusses the meaning of salvation as eternal life which is proportional to one's knowledge of God. Can such knowledge be obtained outside of the gospel? From a few passages it would seem not. Rom. 10:14, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" Acts 4:10, "There is none other name," etc. John 14:6, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." Matt. 11:27, "No man knoweth the Father save the Son and he to whom the Son willeth to reveal him." There are other passages however which we must consider in interpreting these. The faithful who lived before the gospel are spoken of as saved. (Matt. 8:11; Heb. 11:7.) Yet their knowledge of God was very imperfect. (Ex. 6:8; John 1:17.) Their practice too did not always accord with the gospel, (Gen. 9:21; 12:12, 13) but they lived up to the light they had. The heathen have a measure of light in the witness of nature (Ps. 19:1; Acts 14:17), and of conscience (Rom. 2:14-16.) By this they will be judged. If faithful to the knowledge they have the promise of Acts 10:34 may apply. Also the principle of II Cor. 8:12; Luke 12:47, 48; John 7:17 R. V. It cannot be, then, that the heathen are utterly without the light which lighteth every man coming into the world. (John 1:17.) Their hopeless condition lies in the fact that they do not obey the light they have. (Rom. 2:12; Rom. 1:18-24.) But God is so much more clearly revealed in Jesus of the gospel that he has power to transform. Hence the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation." The character of the god worshipped determines the character of the worshippers, and this determines destiny. The gospel alone makes known the Christian God, the Father in heaven full of mercy and love. It is so much more effective for salvation than any light of conscience or nature that the question becomes not "can the heathen be saved without it, but can we be saved if we do not carry it to them."